

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The reaction of one Soviet to the reading of the Rosenberg case, particularly the defense lawyer's letter in which he practically accused the President of the United States of being a murderer, was one of dismay. He could not imagine that any such statement could be made or written in the USSR. "The regime would not be able to think of the proper means of executing the writer of such a letter", he said.
2. An individual in Moscow states that there is no external manifestation of the struggle for power going on among the top leaders of the Soviet hierarchy. No one, he says, dares even to hint at such a struggle in conversation for fear of being imprisoned for a political crime.
3. Following the amnesty granted after Stalin's death to certain prisoners in the Soviet Union, the actual release of these prisoners was to continue for a two-month period because the national transportation system could not carry the load in less than two months. With regard to any bitterness that the freed prisoners might harbor against the regime, a Soviet reported that carloads of released concentration camp inmates shouted, "Long live Voroshilov!", along their entire journey from the camp to the point of release, since it was Marshal Voroshilov who had signed the amnesty decree.
4. A Soviet citizen expressed the following opinion regarding Soviet foreign policy after Stalin's death: The Soviet leaders have realized that their firm and uncompromising foreign policy has not produced the desired results and has caused hardships at home; they are, therefore, adopting measures to lift restrictions on diplomats in Moscow and, in general, to liberalize their foreign policy.
5. A Soviet who holds an official government position made the following remarks about anti-Semitic feeling in the Soviet Union: Not only is it the official line to eliminate Jews from positions of authority or responsibility, but popular feeling is highly anti-Semitic. It is no longer necessary for the Soviet Union to lean upon

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Jews for support and, in general, "they are not to be trusted because they always seek to advance themselves at the expense of someone else." Recently there have been instances of school children assaulting Jewish children. One of the reasons for the present strong dislike of Jews is the fact that previously any sign of discrimination was punished with extraordinary severity. Now (up to July 1953), however, the recent accusations concerning Zionist activities in collaboration with the United States have been accepted by the populace as permission to "take it out" on the Jews.

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